

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 5-11, 14, and 44-46 are pending in the application with claims 1, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 14 being the independent claims. Claims 15-43 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 15-36 and 38-40 were previously withdrawn from consideration due to a restriction requirement and are now canceled.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 1, 5-11, 14 and 44-46 are allowed.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully traverse maintenance of the rejection of claims 41-43 under 35 U. S. C. § 112, first paragraph. Solely in an effort to expedite prosecution and without acquiescing in the propriety of the rejection, Applicants have canceled claims 41-43. Therefore, the rejection has been rendered moot and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

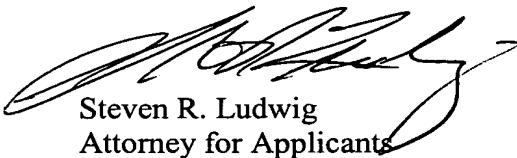
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Advisory Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Steven R. Ludwig
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 36,203

Date: 5/20/05

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

399192.1